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No. II.

TAIL-PIECE FOR A VIOLONCELLO.

The LARGE SILVER MEDAL *was presented to Mr. S. A.* FORSTER, *of* 34, *Frith Street, Soho, for his improved Tail-piece for a Violoncello.*

34, *Frith Street, Soho Square,*
Feb. 28*th*, 1831.

SIR,

MAY I request you will do me the honour of laying before the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, the accompanying copy of a certificate, together with the invention to which it refers. The invention is a new tail-piece for violoncellos, and all instruments of a similar description, by which the vibrations are much facilitated, and the tones rendered far more equal than hitherto. Another advantage of this invention is, that in most cases it will relieve the defective notes E and F, commonly called by manufacturers and performers upon violoncellos " the wolf." This advantage is gained by tuning behind the bridge; for should one of the strings in the short space between the bridge and tail-piece be either of the before-named notes, or within a semitone of either of them, they will be found to be much harsher when the finger is placed upon the finger-board, than if tuned to any other note in the octave. As the bridges of musical instruments are not cut to a certain curve, my invention being divided into four distinct parts, forms itself to the same curve, and thereby relieves the bridge of a weight with which the strings are oppressed, by the reverse direction of the strings in the old tail-piece.

I find it difficult to explain in writing the peculiarities of this invention; but if you, or any of the gentlemen of the Society, would favour me with an interview, I shall be happy to go fully into its merits. The copy of the certificate of professional gentlemen which I enclose, will satisfy you as to the estimation in which it is held by them.

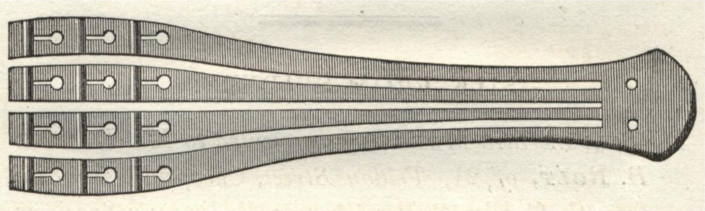
I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. Aikin, Esq. S. A. Forster.
Secretary, &c. &c.

Mr. S. A. Forster having invented a method for removing the harsh and imperfect notes from violins, tenors, and violoncellos, by means of which the tones are rendered more equal, and the general quality greatly improved; we, the undersigned, having tried and found that Mr. S. A. Forster's invention possesses the qualities above named, do recommend it as being worthy the attention of every professor and amateur on those instruments.

(Signed) Robt. Lindley,
C. Lindley,
C. Neate,
T. Binfield,
James Brooks,
N. T. Eley,
R. Hatton,
James Cervetto.

The tail-piece of a violoncello is a thin board, usually of ebony, fixed at the end of the instrument opposite to the pegs, and to which the ends of the strings are tied or otherwise fastened. Mr. Forster's invention consists, first, in making three longitudinal cuts in the tail-piece, dividing it into four bars, united only at the lower end and sufficiently separated at the other to prevent them from touching while in a state of vibration, as represented in the annexed figure, and attaching the strings one to each of the bars. In each bar are three holes, and the string is to be fastened to whichever of them, on trial, shall be found to give the most perfect tone. Secondly, the material of the tail-piece, instead of being wood, as usual, is of soft hammered brass; this alloy being found to give freer vibrations than copper, and to be preferable to iron or steel, on account of the metallic quality of tone which attends the use of these substances.



By the above arrangement, each string being attached to its own bar, the string and bar form a continuous and distinct line, and therefore the vibrations of the different notes interfere less with each other. When the strings are tied to one common tail-piece, the breaking of one puts all the others out of tune; but in Mr. Forster's invention, as each string has its own bar or tail-piece, the breaking of one affects the others in a very slight degree.